OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20535

August 1, 1969

Mr. Howard Roffman
8829 Blue Grass Road
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19152

Dear Mr. Roffman:

In your letter dated July 17, 1969, you asked certain questions concerning various items submitted to the FBI Laboratory in connection with the assassination of President Kennedy.

You inquired as to the weight of the two test bullets fired in the FBI Laboratory from Lee Harvey Oswald's rifle. The individual weights of these test bullets were not recorded since the average weight of bullets loaded into caliber 6.5mm Mannlicher-Carcano cartridges was determined by weighing several pristine bullets. As you were advised in my letter dated August 19, 1968, the weight lost due to barrel erosion when a bullet is fired is less than the normal variation in manufactured weight.

In answer to your second question, please be advised that the "stretcher bullet" weighed 158.6 grains when received in the Laboratory, as stated by Special Agent Robert A. Frazier in his testimony as recorded on page 68, volume 5 of the Hearings of the Warren Commission.

"Shoulder dents" as referred to in your third question, often result from ejection procedures as cartridge cases spin out of the ejection port of a rifle. For your information, many of the markings appearing on the three cartridge cases and the loaded cartridge submitted to the FBI Laboratory in this matter were identified as having been made by Oswald's rifle. It should be remembered that the loaded cartridge was found in the chamber of the rifle,

Mr. Howard Roffman

whereas the three cartridge cases were found on the floor of the Texas School Book Depository building and, therefore, were subject to possible damage after being ejected from this rifle.

I trust the above information will be of assistance to you.

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

John Edgar Hoover
Director